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METHODS OF TREATMENT

Background of the Invention

The present invention relates to methods of treatment, in particular it relates to methods of treating weight loss due to underlying disease (cachexia).

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Weight loss due to underlying disease, often termed "cachexia", occurs in patients with a wide variety of diseases including acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), liver cirrhosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic renal failure, chronic infections including pneumonia, cancer (cancer

10 cachexia), diabetes and heart disease including hypertension and chronic heart failure (CHF) (cardiac cachexia). Cachexia may also occur idiopathically.

In all cases, cachexia may be an indicator of a poor prognosis and its reversal, stopping or at least slowing down, is desirable. Indeed, a strong relationship

15 between weight loss and mortality has been found for many conditions.

Hormonal changes and catabolic/anabolic imbalance in chronic heart failure (CHF) and their relevance in cardiac cachexia has been discussed in Anker *et al* (1997) *Circulation* **96**, 526-534. Similarly, catecholamine levels, serum uric

20 acid levels, TNF α levels and other hormone levels have been measured in patients with CHF (see, for example, Anker *et al* (1997) *Heart* **78**, 39-43; Anker *et al* (1998) *Q J. Med.* **91**, 199-203; Anker (1998) *Eur. Heart J.* **19**, (Suppl F), F56-F61; Anker *et al* (1997) *J. Amer. Coll. Cardiol.* **30**, 997-1001; Anker *et al* (1999) *Eur. Heart J.* **20**, 683-693; Anker (1999) *Chest* **115**, 836-847). In

25 addition, studies have been made of the loss of bone mineral in patients with cachexia due to CHF (Anker *et al* (1999) *Am. J. Cardiol.* **83**, 612-615).



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Brief Summary of the Invention

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